

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 are cancelled

15. (Currently amended) An extruded solid composite gas generating material for use in a vehicle occupant protection apparatus comprising:  
about 5% to about 20% by weight of the gas generating material, of a thermosetting binder, said thermosetting binder being selected from group consisting of silicone and a hydroxy terminated polybutadiene and  
0 to about 50%, by weight of the gas generating material, of an energetic fuel; and  
an amount of oxidizer effective to oxygen balance the gas generating material;  
wherein more than 50% by weight of the oxidizer is basic copper nitrate, and  
wherein said thermosetting binder comprises at least about 20% by volume of the gas generating material.

Claim 16 is cancelled.

17. (original) The gas generating material of claim 15 wherein the binder is a fuel and comprises at least about 5% by weight of the fuel in the gas generating material.

18. (original) The gas generating material of claim 15 wherein the oxidizer further comprises a metal oxide.

19. (original) The gas generating material of claim 18 wherein the metal oxide is copper oxide.

20. (original) The gas generating material of claim 18 wherein the weight ratio of basic copper nitrate to the transition metal oxide is about 1.5:1 to about 3:1.

21. (original) The gas generating material of claim 18 wherein the oxidizer further comprises about 5% to about 20%, by weight of the oxidizer, an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal perchlorate.

22. (original) The gas generating material of claim 15 wherein the amount of oxidizer in the gas generating material is about 85% to about 95% by weight of the gas generating material.

Claims 23-27 are cancelled.

28. (original) The gas generating material of claim 15 wherein the energetic fuel is selected from group consisting of guanidine nitrate and hexamine cobalt (III) nitrate.

29. (Currently amended) An extruded solid composite gas generating material for use in a vehicle occupant protection apparatus, comprising:

about 5% to about 20%, by weight of the gas generating material, of a thermosetting binder, said thermosetting binder being selected from group consisting of silicone and a hydroxy terminated polybutadiene,

0 to about 50%, by weight of the gas generating material, of an energetic fuel,

0 to about 30%, by weight of the gas generating material, of a sinter forming material; and

an amount of oxidizer effective to oxygen balance the gas generating material;

wherein more than 50% by weight of the oxidizer is basic copper nitrate, and

wherein the binder is a fuel and comprises at least about 20% by weight of the fuel in the gas generating material.

Claim 30 is cancelled.

31. (original) The gas generating material of claim 29 wherein the sinter forming material is selected from the group consisting of silica and alumina.

32. (original) The gas generating material of claim 29 wherein the oxidizer further comprises about 5% to about 20%, by weight of the oxidizer, an alkali metal nitrate, an alkaline earth metal nitrate, ammonium nitrate, an alkali metal perchlorate, an alkaline earth metal perchlorate, ammonium perchlorate, an alkali metal chlorate, an alkaline earth metal chlorate, or a mixture thereof.

33. (original) The gas generating material of claim 29 wherein the binder is a hydroxyterminated polybutadiene.

34. (original) An extruded solid composite gas generating material for use in a vehicle occupant protection apparatus comprising:

about 5% to about 20% by weight of the gas generating material, of a mixture of cellulose acetate butyrate and butyl nitratroethylnitramine

0 to about 50%, by weight of the gas generating material, of an energetic fuel with a low heat of heat of combustion; and

an amount of oxidizer effective to oxygen balance the gas generating material;

wherein more than 50% by weight of the oxidizer is basic copper nitrate.

35. (original) The gas generating material of claim 34 wherein the energetic fuel comprises guanidine nitrate, hexamine cobalt (III) nitrate, or mixtures thereof.

36. (original) The gas generating material of claim 35 wherein the energetic fuel comprises about 20% to about 40% by weight of the gas generating material.

37. (original) The gas generating material of claim 36 wherein the oxidizer further comprises a mixture of sodium nitrate and ammonium perchlorate.